

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15  
AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06  
CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /100 W  
-----200610Z 109021 /12

R 191656Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8850  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
UDKGPQ/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE 1185  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
TEN/USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 0531

E.O. 11652:N/A  
TAGS:ELAB,PINT,BE  
SUBJECT: MOC REJECTS GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC/SOCIAL POLICY

1. THE CHRISTIAN WORKERS MOVEMENT (MOC),CONSTITUTING THE  
LEFT WING OF THE SOCIAL CHRISTIAN PARTY (PSC),SHARPLY CHALLENGED  
GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICIES AT ITS CENTRAL  
COMMITTEE MEETING IN BRUSSELS JANUARY 15.THE MOC LEADERSHIP  
REJECTED WHAT IT LABELLED " THE EMPLOYER-GOVERNMENT THESIS"  
LAYING PRINCIPAL BLAME FOR BELGIUM'S ECONOMIC SLUMP AND  
UNEMPLOYMENT ON HIGH LABOR COSTS,WAGE INDEXATION,AND  
EXCESSIVELY COSTLY SOCIAL PROGRAMS. MOC PROPOSED INSTEAD  
A RADICAL NEW APPROACH TO ECONOMIC RECOVERY FEATURING,  
INTER ALIA,A REDUCTION OF THE WORK WEEK TO 36 HOURS.  
DIRECT PUBLIC INVESTMENT IN INDUSTRY,SUPPRESSION OF  
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INCOME TAX FRAUD(ESTIMATED AT DOLS 3 - DOLS 3.5 BILLION A YEAR),  
AND AN INVENTORY OF PRIVATE FORTUNES.

2. SECRETARY GENERAL D'HONDT OF THE CHRISTIAN TRADE  
UNION FEDERATION (CSC)WAS A PRINCIPAL SPEAKER IN THE  
CENTRAL COMMITTEE DEBATE.HE DECLARED THE TINDEMANS  
GOVERNMENT HAD SHOWN ITSELF UNABLE TO EFFECT THE

FUNDAMENTAL STRUCTURAL CHANGES WHICH HE SAID WERE NECESSARY TO OVERCOME THE UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM. D'HONDT CALLED FOR A REDUCTION OF THE WORK WEEK AND THE VIGOROUS USE OF EVERY OTHER MEANS (INCLUDING PLANT OCCUPATIONS AND EXPERIMENTS IN SELF-MANAGEMENT) NECESSARY TO PRESERVE EXISTING JOBS.

3.MOC MINISTER OF LABOR CALIFICE,WHO WAS PRESENT AT THE MEETING,REMAINED SILENT THROUGHOUT.

4.COMMENT: MOC,A LOOSE GROUPING OF FRANCPHONE CHRISTIAN TRADE UNIONISTS,MUTUALITE ACTIVISTS, WOMEN AND YOUNG WORKERS,REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION OF SOCIAL CHRISTIAN PARTY STRENGTH IN WALLONIA AND THE PRINCIPAL CHALLENGE TO SOCIALIST PARTY DOMINATION OF WALLOON INDUSTRIAL DISTRICTS.C IN THIS WINTER OF BELGIAN DISCONTENT MOC AND LIKEMINDED SOCIAL CHRISTIANS HAVE ASSAILED THE GOVERNMENT'S DO-LITTLE RECOVERY POLICY MORE VIGOROUSLY THAN HAVE THE OPPOSITION SOCIALISTS.THIS MILITANCE (WITH WHICH LABOR MINISTER CALIFICE WARMLY SYMPATHIZES) IS BEGINNING TO POSE A REAL PROBLEM FOR PSC - AND PERHAPS FOR THE TINDEMANS GOVERNMENT AS A WHOLE.TEN OF THE 22 PSC DEPUTIES IN THE HOUSE ARE MOC MEMBERS AND THUS MORALLY BOUND TO OPPOSE KEY POLICIES OF THE GOVERNMENT THEY SUPPORT.WITH HIS SLIM MAJORITY TINDEMANS CANNOT STAND ANY SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF DEFECTIONS FROM HIS RANKS - CERTAINLY NOT AS MANY AS TEN PSC DEPUTIES.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LABOR UNIONS, SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS, SOCIAL INSURANCE, FRINGE BENEFITS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** ELAB, PINT, BE  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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